

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 196
By Fowlkes

A RESOLUTION to create a special joint committee to study the need for additional rest stop parking spaces for certain commercial motor vehicles in Tennessee.

WHEREAS, Tennessee is dependent upon commercial truck transportation to support commerce, business and the way of life in our state; and

WHEREAS, recent studies demonstrate that highway accidents involving commercial vehicles have been on the decline in Tennessee due to industry commitment, a partnership with the safety enforcement community and infrastructure improvements; and

WHEREAS, federal and state regulations specify the maximum number of hours that a driver may drive without rest, and recent studies have cited driver fatigue as the most frequent cause of commercial vehicle accidents; and

WHEREAS, a recent study completed by the Trucking Research Institute, under contract with the Federal Highway Administration of the U.S. Department of Transportation, indicates that the shortfall of available rest stop parking spaces for tractor trailer trucks in Tennessee is six hundred twenty-seven (627); and

WHEREAS, this number represents an astounding sixty-five percent (65%) of the total number of such spaces estimated to be needed within the state, and demonstrates that Tennessee presently has only forty-five percent (45%) of the rest stop parking spaces for commercial motor vehicles that it actually needs; and

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WHEREAS, this significant shortage of rest stop parking spaces for tractor trailer trucks in Tennessee certainly increases the likelihood of driver fatigue and may be a contributing factor in traffic accidents involving such commercial vehicles; and

WHEREAS, this issue directly affects the public safety and welfare and should be carefully and exhaustively studied by this General Assembly; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That there is hereby created a special joint committee to study the need for additional rest stop parking spaces for commercial motor vehicles, and especially tractor trailer trucks, in Tennessee and to propose cost-effective solutions to rectify the present shortage of such rest stop parking spaces.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the committee shall consist of three (3) members of the House of Representatives and three (3) members of the Senate who have demonstrated an interest in highway safety, to be appointed by the respective speakers.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That in its deliberations, the committee shall consult with the Department of Safety, the Department of Transportation, the Tennessee Trucking Association and all other interested parties that the committee deems appropriate.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That all appropriate state agencies shall provide assistance to the special joint committee upon request of the chair.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That all legislative members of the special joint committee who are duly elected members of the General Assembly shall remain members of such committee until the committee reports its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the special joint committee shall be convened by the member with the most years of continuous service in the General Assembly, and at its first meeting shall elect a chair, vice-chair, and such other officers the committee deems necessary.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the special joint committee shall timely report its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation or interim reports, to the One-Hundredth General Assembly no later than February 1, 1998, at which time the committee shall cease to exist.